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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Research in Photosynthesis

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1. In the USSR there are two different approaches to the study of photosynthesis: the first is the physical-chemical orientation, while the second is the biological-botany approach. There is a group doing good and interesting work along the physical-chemical lines. A.A. Krasnovsky is doing the best work, approaching photosynthesis from the physical rather than the biological side, purely outside the living cell and dealing with the chemistry of pigment solution with the aim of gaining an understanding of what is going on in the living cell. (This relates to the nature of the process of conversion of energy rather than to the biological functioning of the plant cell.) Something may come of his work (which is probably located in Moscow) and no one has yet interfered with him on political grounds.
2. In addition to Krasnovsky, there is a group of biochemists working on enzymes. Sisakyan (fnu) has published a large number of papers as well as a book on enzymes in chloroplasts. His work is rather qualitative, and he is strongly stressing the correct dialectic approach.
3. The biological-botany group is doing very weak work. They are limited by the ideological influence which shows in the work done at the Leningrad Botanical Gardens where the whole group are pupils of the late Kostychev. He left a number of pupils who work in institutions around Leningrad. These

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people are influenced by the doctrine that *one* should study living organisms rather than isolated parts. This stems from dialectical materialism. As a result, they create hypotheses which are vague and which entail a lot of wasted effort. While the papers of this biological-botany group appear to have no value, their authors claim that there is a practical value.

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